

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace original FIGs. 1, 2, and 3 with the amended FIGs. 1, 2, and 3 of the attached replacement sheet.

Attachments: Replacement sheets FIGs. 1, 2, and 3.

Annotated sheets. FIGs. 1, 2, and 3.

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for reviewing and considering the present application. The Office Action dated August 14, 2007, has been received and reviewed.

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the December 20, 2007 personal interview with the Examiner. The substance of the interview is set forth below and constitutes the record of the interview.

By this amendment, claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 15, 27, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 51, and 81 have been amended, and new claims 83-93 have been added. No new matter has been added. Further, claims 23-25 and 30-31 were previously canceled. Accordingly claims 1-22, 26-29, and 32-93 are pending. Further, FIGs. 1-3 have been amended to overcome a drawing objection. Re-examination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. FIGs. 1-3 have been labeled "RELATED ART" to obviate the objection.

The Office Action objects to claims 7, 71, 77, and 81 based on minor informalities. Claims 7, 71, and 81 have been amended to obviate the objection. Regarding claim 77, however, Applicants object to the objection. Specifically, it appears clear to the Applicants that the claim is reciting that if the positioning hole is at the stator then the positioning protrusion is at the stator fastening part or vice versa. Thus withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-12, 14-22, 26, 36, and 38-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,460,382 to Kim (hereinafter "*Kim*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 15, and 27, these claims recite, among other things, (1) the stator fastening part is made of a material that is different from a material of the tub rear

wall/tub; (2) the bearing supporting part and the stator fastening part are disposed between an inner surface and an outer surface of the tub rear wall/tub; (3) a rotor to form a motor with a stator; and (4) the outer surface of the tub rear wall/the outer surface of the tub is between the stator and the stator fastening part.

Kim does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the claims. As discussed during the interview, *Kim*'s rear wall 200 and hub 201 cannot be read together to disclose the claimed tub rear wall and the stator fastening part. The reason is that, as shown in Fig. 2B of *Kim*, the hub 201 is part of the rear wall 200, i.e., they are the same element which is the rear wall, and thus they are a contiguous piece made with the same material. On the contrary, in the claims, the tub rear wall/tub and stator fastening part are made with different materials to thereby indicate that they are different elements. This limitation was added to the claims in order to clarify the claim language that the stator fastening part is disposed between the inner surface and the outer surface of the tub rear wall/tub. *Kim* does not disclose this feature since in *Kim*, the hub 201 is part of the rear wall 200, and thus the rear wall itself cannot be between the inner surface and the outer surface of the rear wall, i.e., itself.

Further, the claims recite that the outer surface of the tub rear wall/tub is between the stator and the stator fastening part. If *Kim*'s hub 201 cannot be the stator fastening part, then it should follow that the supporter 17 can be associated with the claimed stator fastening part. This would be clear to one reading *Kim*. For instance, the claims recite that stator fastening parts has fastening holes. Likewise, support 17 also has fastening holes. However, the claims require that the outer surface of the tub rear wall/tub is between the stator and the stator fastening part. In contrast, the supporter 17 is between the rear wall 200 and the stator 14. See FIG. 2B and col. 7, lines 45-49. Therefore, *Kim* does not disclose or suggest all the features of the claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 15 and 27 recite patentable subject matter.

Claim 41 recites, among other things, (1) the stator fastening part is made of a material that is different from a material of the tub; (2) the bearing supporting part and the stator fastening part are disposed between an inner surface and an outer surface of the tub; (3) a rotor to form a motor with a stator; and (4) the outer surface of the tub is between the stator and the stator fastening part.

For reasons as discussed above, *Kim* does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claim 41. That is, as shown in Fig. 2B of *Kim*, the hub 201 is part of the rear wall 200, i.e., they are the same element which is the rear wall, and thus they are a contiguous piece made with the same material. On the contrary, in claim 41, the tub and stator fastening part are made with different materials to thereby indicate that they are different elements. This limitation was added to the claim in order to clarify that *Kim*'s hub 201 and the rear wall 200 cannot be used to disclose that the stator fastening part is disposed between the inner surface and the outer surface of the tub. Further, the claim recites that the outer surface of the tub is between the stator and the stator fastening part. If *Kim*'s hub 201 cannot be the stator fastening part, then it should follow that the supporter 17 can be associated with the claimed stator fastening part. However, the supporter 17 is between the rear wall 200 and the stator 14. Therefore, *Kim* does not disclose or suggest all the features of claim 41. Accordingly, claim 41 recites patentable subject matter.

Claims 42, 43, and 51 recite, among other things, (1) the stator fastening part is made of a material that is different from a material of the tub rear wall; and (2) the surface of the tub rear wall is between the stator and the stator fastening part.

For reasons as discussed above, *Kim* does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claims 42, 43, and 51. That is, as shown in Fig. 2B of *Kim*, the hub 201 is part of the rear wall 200, i.e., they are the same element which is the rear wall, and thus they are a contiguous piece made with the same material. On the contrary, in the claims, the tub rear wall

and stator fastening part are made with different materials to thereby indicate that they are different elements. This limitation was added to the claims in order to clarify that *Kim*'s hub 201 and the rear wall 200 cannot be used to disclose that the stator fastening part is disposed between the inner surface and the outer surface of the tub rear wall. Further, the claims recite that the surface of the tub rear wall is between the stator and the stator fastening part. If *Kim*'s hub 201 cannot be the stator fastening part, then it should follow that the supporter 17 can be associated with the claimed stator fastening part. However, the supporter 17 is between the rear wall 200 and the stator 14. Therefore, *Kim* does not disclose or suggest all the features of the claims. Accordingly, claims 42, 43, and 51 recite patentable subject matter.

Claim 38 recites, among other things, (1) the tub supporting plate is made of material that is different from the material of the tub; and (2) the surface of the tub is between the stator and the tub supporting plate.

For at least the reasons as discussed above, *Kim* does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claim 38. Accordingly, claim 38 recites patentable subject matter.

Claims 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16-22, 26, 36, 39-40 and 51-82 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from the respective independent claims.

Claims 3, 6, 9, 13, 27-29, 32-35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being rendered obvious by *Kim*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, *Kim* does not render obvious independent claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 15, and 27. Claims 3, 6, 9, 13, 28-29, 32-35, and 37 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from the respective independent claims.


Newly added claims 83-93 are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from the respective independent claims.

This application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicants' representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  Yong (u.)
Mark R. Bresloff 43.324
Registration No.: 42,766
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant

DC:50527039.1

FIG. 1

"Related Art"

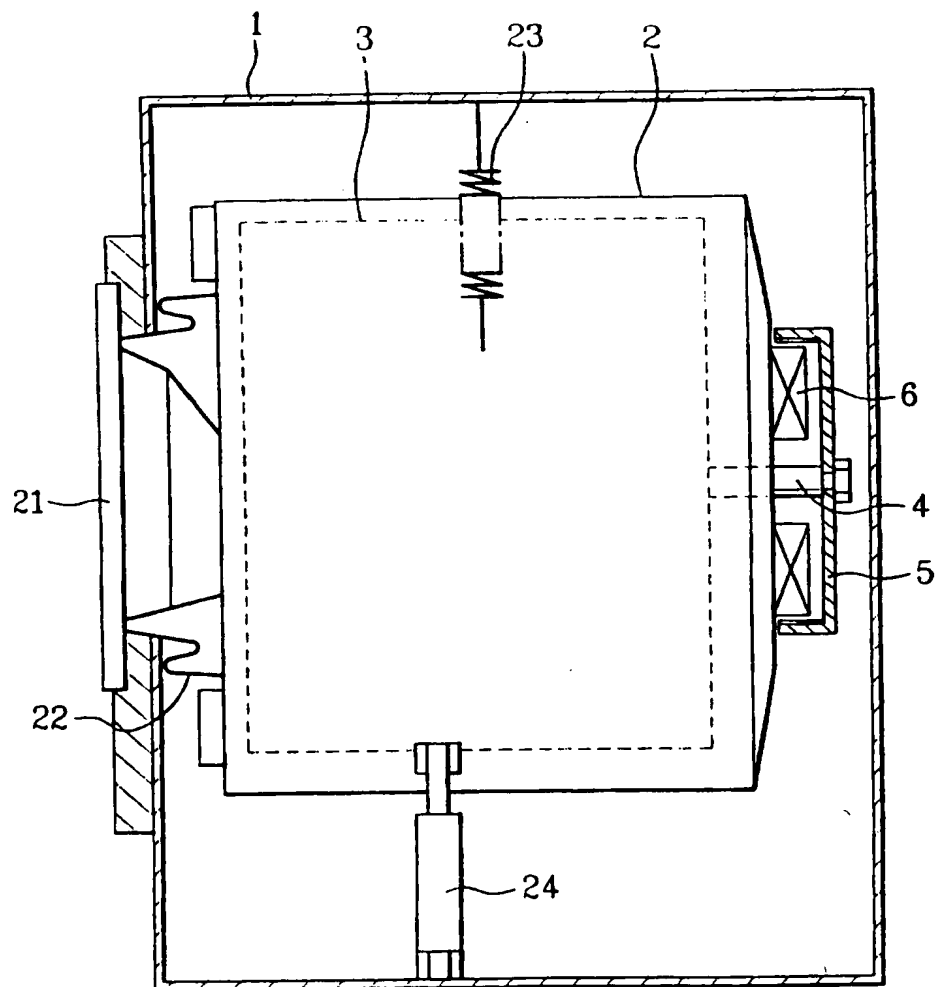


FIG. 2

"Related Art"

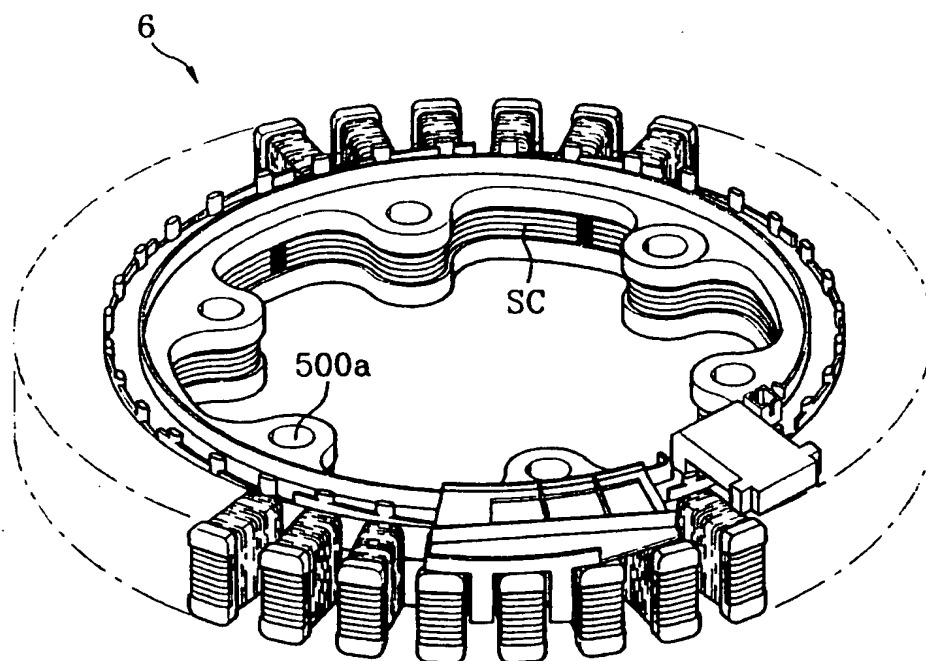


FIG. 3

"Related Art"

